



NEWS RELEASE

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Border Patrol Drug Seizures reach all time high *Laredo Sector drug seizures surpass 50,000 lbs. for FY '03*

LAREDO, Texas – The Laredo Sector Border Patrol today released official figures for drug seizures during the first 48 days of fiscal year 2003 and gave a preliminary look at the figures through Nov. 17, 2002.

During this period, official figures indicate that Laredo Sector Agents seized 51,037.10 pounds of marijuana, which is up by 166% percent from the fiscal year 2002. The seizure of the 51,037.10 pounds involved 142 seizures with 125 principals. "The total marijuana seizures during fiscal year 2003 average over 1,000 pounds a day," stated Laredo Sector Chief Patrol Agent John W. Montoya.

The 51,037.10 pounds of marijuana is valued at over \$40 million. The increase in drug seizures is attributed to the effective Border Patrol enforcement strategies along the Southwest border and as a result smuggling organizations are attempting to use other areas to try to introduce their narcotics into the United States. At present time, the Laredo Sector leads the nation's Border Patrol Sectors in marijuana seizures, according to CPA John W. Montoya.

The Border Patrol Fiscal Year 2003 commences on Oct. 1, 2002 and ends on Sept. 30, 2003.

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